



Doucette named Blazers' play-by-play announcer

The Portland Trail Blazers have named longtime National Basketball Association announcer Eddie Doucette as their new radio play-by-play broadcaster. Doucette succeeds Bill Schonely, who announced on August 19 that he was moving to television play-by-play for the Blazers.

served as the television voice for the Los Angeles Dodgers and five other big league teams. He has broadcast National Football League action with the Los Angeles Rams and the Mutual Broadcasting Network, and spent seven years with the USA Television Network announcing Major

Notes from around the NBA

What began with an offer of help on a North Carolina golf course will result in desperately needed funds to be used toward rebuilding parts of South Florida devastated when Hurricane Andrew came ashore Aug. 24.

The Chicago Bulls and Miami Heat have agreed to play

BLAZERPAGE

an additional preseason game on Monday, Oct. 19 at Miami Arena, with all funds raised going to the coalition We Will Rebuild.

The idea for the game was hatched on a golf course days after the storm hit, when Michael Jordan asked Heat partner Billy Cunningham what he could do to help. Discussions between the two teams led to the benefit preseason game.

"Having this game is the best and most immediate way we know to help those who were affected by this tragic storm," Heat managing partner Lewis Schaffel said. "This is something we feel good about — this is something we believe we must do."

Chicago Bulls' chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said contributing to the hurricane relief effort is his team's way of giving something back to the fans.

The NBA and the NBA

On Oct. 14, Randy Smith, NBA player programs manager, and former Knicks coach and GM Eddie Donovan will be inducted into the Greater Buffalo Hall of Fame. NBA Stay in School Chairperson **Bob Lanier** was an inaugural inductee in the Buffalo Hall of Fame last year.

□□□

In the past six weeks, Larry Bird, Walter Davis, Wayne Cooper and Brad Davis have announced their retirements from the NBA. That group played a combined 57 NBA seasons and 3,875 NBA games, scoring 56,955 points. Interestingly, Bird played the fewest games of anyone in that foursome (897). With the four retirements, the number of still-active NBA players who played in the NBA during the '70s is dwindling.

Player, First NBA Season
 Bill Cartwright, 1979-80
 Maurice Cheeks*, 1978-79
 James Edwards, 1977-78

Rickey Green*, 1977-78
 Gerald Henderson*, 1979-80
 Earvin Johnson, 1979-80
 Vinnie Johnson, 1979-80
 Bernard King, 1977-78
 Moses Malone, 1976-77
 Robert Parish, 1976-77
 Wayne Rollins*, 1977-78
 *Currently an unrestricted free agent

□□□

On Jan. 28, the 1991-92 NBA season came to an end for Atlanta forward Dominique Wilkins when he suffered a torn right Achilles tendon. Wilkins was the NBA's second-leading scorer, with an average of 28.1 ppg, at the time of the injury. Although doctors said the rehabilitation would be painful and could take up to one full year, Wilkins has been playing tennis and pick-up basketball in Atlanta and expects to be in training camp from the start.

"I can't tell you how good it felt to be playing again," Wilkins said recently.

'Reading Fitness' begins

The BASIC Reading Fitness segment which is designed to encourage increased interest in leisure reading, began Oct. 5 and runs through Nov. 30. It targets students in grades one through six. All students that participate in reading fitness will receive a special certificate. For more information on how to register, call the BASIC hot line 1-503-231-5275.



Doucette named Blazers' play-by-play announcer

The Portland Trail Blazers have named longtime National Basketball Association announcer Eddie Doucette as their new radio play-by-play broadcaster. Doucette succeeds Bill Schonely, who announced on August 19 that he was moving to television play-by-play for the Blazers.

"Eddie is one of the top play-by-play broadcasters in this country," said Marshall Glickman, Portland's senior vice-president of marketing. "We feel very fortunate that we have added someone with such versatility and experience to our radio broadcasts. In Eddie Doucette and Mike Rice, I think our fans will hear one of the top radio broadcast teams in sports."

A 31-year veteran broadcaster, Doucette has announced NBA basketball action with the Denver Nuggets, Indiana Pacers, Los Angeles Clippers and Milwaukee Bucks. Last season, he was one of the play-by-play voices of the NBA Radio Network, and was on hand as the Trail Blazers defeated the Utah Jazz in the Western Conference Finals.

Doucette also has 13 years of experience announcing Major League Baseball, having

served as the television voice for the Los Angeles Dodgers and five other big league teams. He has broadcast National Football League action with the Los Angeles Rams and the Mutual Broadcasting Network, and spent seven years with the USA Television Network announcing Major League Baseball, college football and basketball, Grand Prix tennis, pro boxing and NBA basketball with Blazers' TV analyst Steve Jones.

"With his experience and enthusiasm, Eddie was by far the best candidate available and we're excited that he is coming to Portland," said J.R. Hellman, Blazers' coordinating producer. Hellman organized the nationwide search for Portland's new voice.

Known as a tireless community service worker, Doucette is co-founder and executive vice president of the Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer Fund, which raises one million dollars annually for childhood cancer research.

A native of Evanston, Ill., Doucette is a graduate of Michigan State University, where he majored in broadcast communications. He and his wife Karen have two sons, Brett and Cory.

Rebuild.

The idea for the game was hatched on a golf course days after the storm hit, when Michael Jordan asked Heat partner Billy Cunningham what he could do to help. Discussions between the two teams led to the benefit preseason game.

"Having this game is the best and most immediate way we know to help those who were affected by this tragic storm," Heat managing partner Lewis Schaffel said. "This is something we feel good about — this is something we believe we must do."

Chicago Bulls' chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said contributing to the hurricane relief effort is his team's way of giving something back to the fans.

The NBA and the NBA Players Association had to approve the game since the Bulls already had the maximum eight exhibition games allowed.

"The Heat, the Bulls and the Players Association were very much aware that by simply playing one extra game, they could do a world of good," said NBA Commissioner David J. Stern.



Several NBA notables will be inducted into various Halls of Fame in October.

On Oct. 1, Willis Reed, senior vice president of basketball operations for the New Jersey Nets, and Tom "Satch" Sanders, NBA vice president of player programs, were inducted into the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame at the Whitehall Club.

On Oct. 2-3, Rod Thorn, NBA vice president of operations, was inducted into the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame.

Interestingly, Bird played the fewest games of anyone in that foursome (897). With the four retirements, the number of still-active NBA players who played in the NBA during the '70s is dwindling.

Player, First NBA Season
Bill Cartwright, 1979-80
Maurice Cheeks*, 1978-79
James Edwards, 1977-78

time of the injury. Although doctors said the rehabilitation would be painful and could take up to one full year, Wilkins has been playing tennis and pick-up basketball in Atlanta and expects to be in training camp from the start.

"I can't tell you how good it felt to be playing again," Wilkins said recently.